

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUSTICES



CHIEF JUSTICE CLIFFORD W. TAYLOR

Term expires January 1, 2009

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor, a native of Flint, was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court in August 1997 by Governor John Engler to fill the seat vacated by retiring Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley. In 1998, Justice Taylor ran and was elected to fill the balance of Justice Riley's term. Justice Taylor was reelected to a full eight-year term in 2000. In January 2005, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chief Justice of the Court. Chief Justice Taylor received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from George Washington University. After three years in the U.S. Navy as a line officer, he returned to Michigan and served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Ingham County. In 1972, he joined the Lansing law firm of Denfield, Timmer and Seelye, which later became Denfield, Timmer & Taylor when he became a partner in the firm. He remained in private practice for 20 years, receiving the highest ratings for competence and character by lawyer rating organizations. In 1992, Governor Engler appointed him to the Michigan Court of Appeals where he served until his appointment to the Michigan Supreme Court. Chief Justice Taylor's professional activities include serving on the Michigan State Board of Law Examiners, of which he was president from 1995 to 1996. He served on the Michigan Legislature's Commission on the Courts in the 21st Century and on the Michigan State Bar's Standing Committee on Character and Fitness. A fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices of the National Center for State Courts.



JUSTICE
MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Michael F. Cavanagh received a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit in 1962 and his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1966. He began his career as a law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals. In 1967, Justice Cavanagh was hired as an assistant city attorney for the City of Lansing and thereafter was appointed as Lansing City Attorney, serving until 1969. He then became a partner in the Lansing law firm of Farhat, Burns and Story, P.C. In 1971, he was elected judge of the 54-A District Court, Lansing, Michigan. Justice Cavanagh was then elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals, where he served from 1975 to 1982. At that time, he was the youngest person ever elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Justice Cavanagh was elected to the state Supreme Court in 1982 and was reelected in 1990, 1998, and 2006. He served as Chief Justice from 1991 to 1995. Justice Cavanagh's current term expires January 1, 2015. The son of a factory worker and a teacher who moved to Detroit from Canada, Justice Cavanagh worked on Great Lakes freighters during the summers to help pay his tuition at the University of Detroit. During his years in law school, he was employed as an insurance claims adjuster and also worked for the Wayne County Friend of the Court as an investigator. Justice Cavanagh has participated in numerous community and professional activities, including Chairman of the Board of the American Heart Association, Past President of the Incorporated Society of Irish/American Lawyers, Board of Directors of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and the Commission on the Future of the University of Detroit Mercy. He is a member of the Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University Law School. He has served as Vice President of the Conference of Chief Justices, Chair of the National Interbranch Conference of Funding the State Courts, and member of the National Center for State Courts Court Improvement Program. Other appointments include the Michigan Justice Project, Chairman of the Judicial Planning Committee, Michigan Crime Commission, Judicial Coordinating Committee, and Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Committee. Justice Cavanagh is the Supervising Justice of the Michigan Judicial Institute. Justice Cavanagh was instrumental in the planning, design, construction and eventual completion of the Michigan Hall of Justice. He has served as Supreme Court Liaison, Michigan Indian Tribal Courts/Michigan State Courts since 1990, and has attended many national Indian Law conferences and participated in Federal Bar Association Tribal Court symposiums. Justice Cavanagh and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of three children, and have two grandsons and one granddaughter. The Cavanagh family resides in East Lansing.



**JUSTICE
ELIZABETH A. WEAVER**

Term expires January 1, 2011

Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver, of Glen Arbor, attended undergraduate school at H. Sophie Newcomb College, receiving her bachelor's degree, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1962. She earned her law degree from Tulane University in 1965, served as an editor of the *Tulane Law Review*, received the Order of the Coif, and served as law clerk for Judge Oliver P. Carriere of the Louisiana Civil District Court. Justice Weaver began her law practice in Louisiana, and came to Michigan in 1973. Elected Leelanau County probate/juvenile judge in November 1974, she was reelected to six-year terms in 1976 and 1982, serving through January 1, 1987. In 1986, Justice Weaver was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals, 3rd District, for a six-year term, and was reelected in 1992. She was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1994 and served as Chief Justice from 1999 to 2000. She was reelected in 2002. Justice Weaver's term expires January 1, 2011. Justice Weaver was appointed to the Michigan Commission on Criminal Justice by Governor William Milliken; to the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice by Governors James Blanchard, John Engler, and Jennifer Granholm. She was also appointed to chair the Governor's Task Force for Children's Justice and the Trial Court Assessment Commission by Governors Engler and Granholm. She has served as chair of the State Bar of Michigan Juvenile Law Committee and as president of the Top of Michigan Probate and Juvenile Judges Association. In addition, Justice Weaver has served on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Judges and as secretary of the Probate and Juvenile Judges Association of Michigan. Justice Weaver's honors and awards include being selected as one of five "Outstanding Young Women in Michigan" by the Michigan Jaycees and as one of "Thirty Outstanding Women in Michigan" by the Michigan Women's Commission. In 1999, she was named "Jurist of the Year" by the Police Officers Association of Michigan. In 2000, she received the "Michigan Champions in Childhood Injury Prevention: Lifetime Dedication to Children Award"; also in 2000, Justice Weaver was honored by Governor Engler and the Family Independence Agency for outstanding service to the children and families of Michigan. The Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals honored her in February 2002 for her exceptional service to and support of Michigan's drug courts. In 2003, she was recognized as an "Outstanding Woman in Leadership and Learning" by Ferris State University. In 2005, she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and named the Newcomb College (of Tulane University) Alumna of the Year. She has been featured in *People* magazine and on ABC's "Good Morning America" on juvenile justice issues.



**JUSTICE
MARILYN KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2013

Before taking the bench, Justice Marilyn Kelly was a courtroom attorney for seventeen years in Michigan. Her practice was diverse in subject matter and geographic area. In 1988, she was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals for a six-year term and reelected in 1994. She was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court for an eight-year term in 1996, and reelected in 2004 for an eight-year term which expires January 1, 2013. Justice Kelly was raised in Detroit and graduated from Mackenzie High School. She earned a B.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. After a year's graduate study at LaSorbonne, University of Paris, France, she received her master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. She taught French language and literature in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, at Albion College and Eastern Michigan University before attending law school at Wayne State University. She was awarded a law degree with honors and serves the law school now on its Board of Visitors. Justice Kelly is a member of the Oakland County Bar Association where she has been active as Chair of the Family Law Committee and Committee Co-Chair of the President's Task Force on Improved Dispute Resolution. She has been an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and a panel member of the State Attorney Discipline Board. She is editor of the 6th Edition of Michigan Family Law published by ICLE. In 2003, Justice Kelly became a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She was elected statewide to the Michigan State Board of Education in 1964 and again in 1968, and served twelve years on the Board, the last two as its President. She has been President, in addition, of the Women's Bar Association and of the Women Lawyers' Association of Michigan. She has been a member of the State Bar Representative Assembly and the Family Law Council for the State Bar of Michigan. From 1999 through 2003, Justice Kelly was co-chair of the Open Justice Commission, an organization of the State Bar devoted to making justice available to all, regardless of factors of race, color, creed or disability. Justice Kelly is President/Moderator and on the governing board of the National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Her community service has included Board Member of Channel 56-Public Television in Detroit, board member of the Women's Survival Center in Pontiac, Vice President of the Board of the Detroit Institute of Technology, Development Committee member of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, and member of the citizens advisory committee of the Detroit Public Schools, Wayne County Community College, and Oakland County Community College. Justice Kelly has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Eastern Michigan University and the Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Education Association. She has been selected by *Corp!* magazine as one of Michigan's 95 most powerful women. In June 2003, Justice Kelly received the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award from the State of Israel Bonds Attorney Division. The State Bar of Michigan presented Justice Kelly with its Michael Franck Award for her outstanding contribution to the legal profession at its annual meeting in September 2003. She also received the State Bar's President's Choice Award in October 2003 for her work on the Open Justice Commission. In 2005, she was honored by Wayne State University as one of the university's outstanding alumni.



JUSTICE
MAURA D. CORRIGAN

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Maura D. Corrigan was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1998 and reelected in 2006. She served two terms as Chief Justice from 2001 to 2004. Justice Corrigan graduated with honors from Marygrove College in 1969, and with honors from the University of Detroit – Mercy School of Law in 1973. Justice Corrigan then served as a law clerk to Michigan Court of Appeals Judge John Gillis, worked as a Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney from 1974 to 1979, and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan from 1979 to 1989. In 1986, she was named Chief Assistant United States Attorney, the first woman to hold that position. In 1989, Justice Corrigan became a partner in the law firm of Plunkett & Cooney. In March 1992, Governor Engler appointed her to the Michigan Court of Appeals where she served through 1998. She served as Chief Judge from 1997 to 1998. Justice Corrigan is active in numerous community and professional activities. She serves on the Board of Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights. She previously served as a member of the Pew Commission investigating national foster care issues, a commissioner of the Michigan Law Revision Commission, an executive board member of the Michigan Judges Association, and member of the Judicial Advisory Board of the Center for Law and Organizational Economics. She was a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit Attorney Advisory Committee and the local rules committee of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She also served on the board of Boysville of Michigan. Justice Corrigan is a past vice-president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and past chair of the CCJ Problem-Solving Courts Committee. She is a past president of the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers and the Federal Bar Association, Detroit Chapter. Justice Corrigan has won many awards for her professional achievements, including Spectrum Human Services Chairman's Award (2006), Michigan Family Support Council 2006 Judicial Award (2006), Police Officers Association of Michigan Jurist of the Year Award (2006), Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers' Tiger Thornton Award (2006), Vista Maria's Child Advocate of the Year Award (2005), the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption Award (2005), the *Detroit News* Michigania of the Year Award (2005), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (OCS) Award for significant improvements to Michigan's Child Support Enforcement Program (2002), the Federal Bar Association's Leonard Gilman Award to the Outstanding Practitioner of Criminal Law (1989), and the U.S. Department of Justice Director's Award for Outstanding Performance as an Assistant U.S. Attorney (1985). She holds honorary degrees from many Michigan universities and colleges: Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University/Detroit College of Law, Northern Michigan University, University of Detroit – Mercy, Oakland Community College, and Schoolcraft College. She has been chosen as the Outstanding Alumna of UD – Mercy Law School and Marygrove College. Justice Corrigan has co-authored a treatise on civil procedure and has published articles in professional journals and books, including *Wayne Law Review*, the *University of Toledo Law Review*, *University of Texas Law Review*, *New York University Law Review*, and *Ave Maria Law Review*. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University of Law. Justice Corrigan has also taught at programs of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the American Bar Association Appellate Practice Institute, the Federal Bar Association, and the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Advocacy Institute. Justice Corrigan is the widow of Wayne State University Distinguished Professor of Law Joseph D. Grano and is the mother of Megan Grano Canale, a professional actress and comedy writer, and Daniel Corrigan Grano, an attorney and city council member in Grosse Pointe Park.



JUSTICE
ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR.

Term expires January 1, 2011

Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. has been a member of the Michigan Supreme Court since 1999; he was elected in 2002 to a term that will expire on January 1, 2011. Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Young served as a judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals, to which he was appointed in 1995 and elected in 1996. Justice Young graduated in 1974 from Harvard College with honors and from Harvard Law School in 1977. In 1978, he joined the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, becoming a partner in the firm in 1982. From 1992, until he joined the Court of Appeals, Justice Young was the vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel of AAA Michigan. Justice Young's community activities include service as a trustee of charitable and civic organizations devoted to children's interests, such as Vista Maria, the Detroit Institute of Children, the Detroit Historical Society, Cranbrook Schools and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice Concerning Child Abuse and Neglect. Justice Young is also a former commissioner of the Michigan Civil Service Commission, a former trustee of Central Michigan University, University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Academy and a former chair of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce Leadership Detroit program. He has served on the boards of many other civic and business organizations. Justice Young has been an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School for a number of years and is a co-editor of *Michigan Civil Procedure During Trial, 2d Ed.* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1989) and *Michigan Civil Procedure* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1999). In 2001 and 1999, Justice Young was awarded honorary degrees respectively from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. In 1999, Justice Young was named Detroit Country Day School's Alumnus of the Year.



JUSTICE
STEPHEN J. MARKMAN

Term expires January 1, 2013

Justice Stephen J. Markman was appointed as the 103rd Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Prior to that, he served as Judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals, having been reelected in 1996 and 1998 from his 60-county judicial district. Before being appointed to the Court, Justice Markman practiced law with the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone in Detroit. From 1989 to 1993, he served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan after being nominated to that position by President George Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. Before serving as United States Attorney, Justice Markman served for four years as Assistant Attorney General of the United States after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the United States Senate. In that position, he headed the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy, which served as the principal policy development office within the department and which coordinated the federal judicial selection process. Prior to this, he served as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution and as Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee for seven years. Justice Markman has authored articles for the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, the *American Criminal Justice Law Review*, the *Barrister's Law Journal*, the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy* and the *Detroit College of Law Review*. He has taught constitutional law at Hillsdale College since 1993 and has traveled to the Ukraine on two occasions, on behalf of the State Department and the American Bar Association, to provide assistance in the development of that nation's new constitution. Justice Markman is a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation, a Master of the Bench of the American Inns of Court, and a member of the One Hundred Club. Justice Markman has actively participated in and spoken before numerous youth and civic organizations in Detroit and throughout Michigan, and has coached Little League baseball and basketball teams. He lives with his wife, Mary Kathleen, and their two children, James and Charles, in Mason. Justice Markman was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Governor John Engler, effective October 1, 1999, to fill the seat vacated by Justice James H. Brickley. In 2000, he was elected to complete the term, which expired January 1, 2005. In 2004, he was reelected to an eight-year term which expires January 1, 2013.